



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0770]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

AGENCY: The Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through www.Regulations.gov, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0770” in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Harvey-Pryor, Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue

NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-5870 or email cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov.

Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0770” in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501–3501. .

Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0770.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The proposed information collection activity provides a means to garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration’s commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve

or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency's services will be unavailable.

The Agency will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are noncontroversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
- Information gathered will be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the agency;
- Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and

- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential nonresponse bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The ***Federal Register*** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on

this collection of information was published at 82 FR 83 on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, pages 20535 and 20536.

Affected Public: Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 214,167 hours.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys: 66,667.

Focus Groups: 30,000.

Customer Comment Cards: 5,000.

Small Discussion Groups: 2,500.

Cognitive Laboratory Studies: 30,000.

Qualitative Customer Satisfaction Surveys: 37,500.

In-Person Observation Testing: 5,000.

Patient Surveys: 37,500.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:

Customer Satisfaction Surveys: 40 minutes.

Focus Groups: 60 minutes.

Customer Comment Cards: 30 minutes.

Small Discussion Groups: 30 minutes.

Cognitive Laboratory Studies: 60 minutes.

Qualitative Customer Satisfaction Surveys: 30 minutes.

In-Person Observation Testing: 30 minutes.

Patient Surveys: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 335,000.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys: 100,000.

Focus Groups: 30,000.

Customer Comment Cards: 10,000.

Small Discussion Groups: 5,000.

Cognitive Laboratory Studies: 30,000.

Qualitative Customer Satisfaction Surveys: 75,000.

In-Person Observation Testing: 10,000.

Patient Surveys: 75,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,

Department Clearance Officer,

Enterprise Records Service,

Office of Quality and Compliance,

Department of Veterans Affairs.

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

[FR Doc. 2017-16122 Filed: 7/31/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/1/2017]